

(Written by Edna Harper)

In the eastern part of localontas County, West Virginia, is Knapps Creek which has its source in the Alleghany Mountains about five miles above Frost. Its two branches unite at Frost from which place it continues to flow along the base of the mountains to the place where it empties into the Greenbrier River, at Marlinton, a distance of almost twenty miles from Frost. The East Fork of the Creek is fed by a stream which comes forth out of the rugged mountain side near Faddys Knob, a peak with an elevation of 4250 feet.

One of the principal tributaries of Knapps Creek of the Minnehaha neighborhood which carries with it the waters of Cochrans Creek. At Huntersville Knapps Creek receives two other streams, Browns Creek from one side and Cummings Creek from the other.

Along the valley are numerous limestone springs, the waters of which are cold, an indication of purity. These help to make the creek larger. The first of them is a cold spring gushing out from under a hill near the fine home of S. Gibson. Further down the valley we find the stream called Mill Run near I. L. Moore's which receives water from a number of springs within a half mile. Next is the Mill Run at W. H. Dever's flowing through his farm where fine cattle graze. From here we go on to W. C. Beckman's where there is another stream of about equal volume. The source of it is also a magnificent never failing stream.

But not least is the famous Minnehaha Spring on the Lockridge property. The crystal water of this spring is of a healing and medical nature. It has been shipped to various parts of the country.

Origin of Name - "The Hills is the hilly region in the northwest of the valley. These are very productive lands and are excellent for fruit and grazing. They were at one time heavily timbered but now only small tracts remain uncut.

The creek from which our good community takes its name was known as Springs Creek in the earliest land papers but was soon changed to Knapps Creek in honor of J. M. Knapp who came into the Valley from Virginia prior to 1742.

... of this country ... and travel to make explorations in the ...
... of ... At first the name of the creek was spelled K-N-P-S, later it was
changed to KNAIPS.

While here Harp lived in a cabin on the west side of the creek about opposite
the place where Mrs. P. L. Cleek now lives. It is not definitely known what became
of him.

Indians. There are evidences that the Indians once roamed through the thick
ferns which covered what is now our beautiful section of country. Pieces of flint
have been found by our citizens which were no doubt used by the Red Face. There was an
Indian burial ground on a flat above the road a short distance up the valley from
I. B. Moore's dwelling. Indications were to the older people that several Indians
had been buried here. It has been said that a few relics were found in later years
when some excavations were made.

Early settlers. Michael Dougherty, a native of Ireland, settled in our valley
near where W. S. Buckman lives about the year 1770. He was one of the first to
occupy the Knapps Creek Region. The same year Moses Moore of Virginia came to
Knapps Creek. It is interesting to note that he bought the land extending from J. L.
Harold's to D. W. Deven's for the consideration of two steel bear traps and two
pounds of English sterling. One of the traps is in the possession of I. B. Moore at
this writing. The original cabin of Moses Moore was built on land now owned by
Mrs. Martha Moore.

M. Moore was fond of hunting and would frequently spend several days in the
region of the upper Greenbrier searching for game. One Sunday morning while sitting
at his step reading the bible he was surrounded and captured by five or six Indians
who called him to travel to Ohio with them but through his cunningness he managed to
escape and return to what is now Boone County.

It is believed that the pioneer, Felix Grimes and his wife selected a site for
the first church in the region, Zion Church, at a date preceding 1800.

The first settlers in the community between the years of 1800 and 1825 inclusive. He

the first of the century that many of the early settlers came to the Valley. In the nineteenth century.

It was a task for the pioneers to clear the forest and build their homes with the poor equipment they had. They worked with a shop made poll axe. In places the thickets of white oaks and wild crab was almost impenetrable. When a primitive forest of white pine, sugar maple, and other trees of large size was cut, a log-rolling was soon in order and they were burned. Bears and wolves were numerous and sheep had to be penned near by the house to protect them.

Land. Many of these hardy pioneers were granted land by James Monroe, John Tyler, and other governors of Virginia between the years of 1800 and 1825. Some of them made difficult trips to Richmond in order that the title of the land where they settled might be made good. The value of the land was small in comparison with the cost per acre now. Old land grants show that one conveyance of land was made as late as 1857 at a little more than one cent per acre. This was a tract of timber land containing 11,000 acres in the Allegheny mountains which extend over to Back Creek. The sum paid for it only sixty-seven years ago (1790) was \$150.00. Since that time it has been sold and resold and millions of feet of valuable timber has been cut on it.

Making of a Rifle - At one time a man by the name of Evick lived in what is known as the Evick hollow near Grover Moore's. He manufactures the Evick Rifle which was a famous gun in its day. We are told that one of these guns may be seen at the Forest Ranger's office. There may be some other hollows along the mountain that received names from men who were not permanent settlers.

Timber and saw mills. A fine lot of white pine timber stood along the foot of the Allegheny. Nearly all the good trees that grew on the level were destroyed because the settlers needed improved land more than timber. A number of sugar groves were left for the purpose of making maple sugar and syrup. The mountain timber has been going on the market since 1860. The white pine was cut first. The logs were floated down the Allegheny River and the Cheat River to Wheeling where they were loaded on the West Virginia Manufacturing Company.

Mr. A. J. Smith and James Smith, who did business under the firm name of

... million feet of white pine cut each year for a period of
... years.

At that time hardwood seemed to be of little value. During the past fifteen or twenty years it has been cut rapidly, perhaps as much as one hundred and fifty to two hundred million feet have been taken from Knapps Creek and Douthards Creek and some valuable tracts are still standing.

The first saw mills to dot this section were the up and down mills run by water power. If we are rightly informed, there were three of these; one owned and operated by Moore's at a point about opposite Moore Schoolhouse, one was on the Lockridge farm where Douthards creek unites with Knapps Creek, and the third mill was built by Henry Harper and operated by him and his son Samuel, for a number of years. This last mill continued sawing until about 1890 and was the last mill of its kind to be operated in the community. Sometimes during the eighties P. H. Harper sawed lumber on this mill to build his house where Mrs. E. A. Pritchard now lives.

The first circular saw mill in this neighborhood was brought here from Augusta county, Virginia, for Wise Herold and I. B. Moore. Many people visited the new mill to observe its working.

Gristmill. The first mill to grind grain was the one owned by Michael ... on the mill run where he settled. Peter Lightner, who was a well known citizen here in 1860, had a mill on the run at D. W. Dever's. Joseph Sharp, a pioneer of Frost, had a mill constructed close where A. A. Sharp now resides, one-half mile from the village.

Henry Harper also had a grist mill which ground wheat, corn and buckwheat. It was located on the farm owned by Harmon Shinoberry. In connection with the grist mill Mr. Harper had a saw mill which has already been mentioned, a tan-yard, and one of the best blacksmith shops. The tithammer was run by water-power. The mill for grinding grain crushed the kernels between two large revolving stones which were made from Lockridge county, Virginia. It was not used longer than 1896.

... of the Civil War were fought on the territory embraced ... but brave men who have lived here were in service.

... brave soldiers of the Federal Army while others joined the ranks of the ... of Hancock frequently passed through this section and General Averill, Union Commander, with his army, camped one night at Frost, marching on the next day to Huntersville.

Establishment of Post Offices - A post office was established at the village of Frost in 1853. Francis Dever was the first postmaster. In conversing with the oldest person in the community, Mrs. Ellen Buzzard, who was ninety-nine years of age on June 23, 1924, she says she does not remember how the name originated, but the presumption is that the name Frost was given to the office on account of the high altitude.

Early storekeepers were Frances Dever, Stuart Wade, Samuel Gibson, and J. B. ...

Before "Uncle Sam" favored the people with a rural free delivery route there was a post office on Knapps Creek near the Mt. Carmel and Westminster Churches known as Sunset. Someone suggested this name because there was an office directly east of here in Bath County, Virginia, by the name of Sunrise. When mail was first carried to the early established offices it was only brought on Wednesdays and Saturdays. One of the early mail routes was from Huntersville to Mill Gap in Virginia.

... The people were very much handicapped in their efforts to travel. Like Daniel Boone when he went to Kentucky they had to make the roads when they came to ... The first known road leading from what is now Virginia into the Knapps ... came across the Allegheny Mountains just opposite the old Harper Mill. ... the old land grants made by governors of Virginia, where corners were ... for on this road which was then an Knapp's Spur, or the Spur Road. This road ... the road traveled by Dr. Henry who will always ... the valley that has been named for him.

... the road is now only a path; and but little traveled in this age of ... evidence of being been dug or graded in a few places where it ... side of the mountain. For years the people of Beck Creek

... to the ... their grain to ...

The first wagon brought to Pocahontas county was brought over Knapp's Spur Road and was taken up the hollow where Westminster Church now stands and which was known as the Ervine Hollow at that time, and on to Cloverlick where it was used.

As the valley improved the fields fenced the road was kept on the Alleghany side the greater part of the way. On account of the shade and ice there in winter parts of it were changed from time to time until the entire road was made on the opposite side of the valley. The last change was made about forty years ago by two colored men, Jacob Kernal and Andrew Daughtery of Frost. The state re-graded the road in 1923, making it much wider to accomodate the increased traffic.

Churches. In 1838 Mt. Zion Church in "The Hills" was built. It is a log structure but has been materially repaired and is still used for a house of worship. Previous to the erection of Mt. Vernon Church the people of Upper Knapp Creek attended services at Mt. Zion. Many of them went horseback across the country by way of the Hill Run at I. B. Moore's.

Mt. Vernon Church was erected in 1856. A noticeable feature of this building is the good quality of the lumber used. Scarcely a defective spot can be seen in the ceiling. John McElvee and son did the carpenter work. All the lumber was planed by hand at a shop on the land owned by Moses Moore who was a noted Christian

Minister. Mt. E. Church at Frost was dedicated in 1866. The opening prayer was offered by Rev. Wm. T. Price of Marlinton. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Wm. Price of Monroe County. Rev. George Spencer was the pastor in charge.

Lutheran at Marshfield was built in 1853 through the efforts of Henry ... in 1873. Before building ... services by Lutheran pastors in their homes, in ... for some years after the building of the ... of the ... of the ... later it had a pastor of its own, but at the present